



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

TASK FORCE ARRESTS FUGITIVE NICARAGUAN IDENTITY THIEF

MIAMI—A 49-year-old citizen of Nicaragua wanted since 2003 for credit card fraud and identity theft was arrested after a brief struggle here Monday morning by federal agents of the Operation Southern Star fugitive task force.

Domingo Chamorro-Zamora attempted to resist arrest by grabbing a steel pole to assault the federal agents.

Zamora was originally arrested in Georgia in 2003 for credit card fraud and identity theft, but fled to avoid prosecution. A warrant was issued for his arrest in July 2003.

His capture comes at a time when identity theft has become one of the fastest growing crimes in the country, and one of the most complex for law enforcement officers to address.

"We prefer to make peaceful arrests, but there's no guarantee that's what will happen," said Field Office Director Michael Rozos of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement here. "Our orders are clear: find criminal aliens and restore integrity to the immigration system. That we can do this under a unified approach with the U.S. Marshal Service mission to find fugitives from justice means America's communities are getting multiple levels of protection from local, state and federal law enforcement."

The arrest was part of Operation Southern Star, a joint U.S. Marshal Service and ICE initiative that uses combined resources and information sources to locate and arrest fugitives. Southern Star was first launched in June. Persons arrested by the task force are being sought under federal arrest warrants.

Under Southern Star, deputy U.S. marshals and ICE officers compare fugitive information. In the case with Zamora, it was learned that he was also previously deported as a criminal in 1980. The combination of Zamora's felony identity theft and credit card fraud warrant and his prior history as a criminal alien who had been deported once already made his capture a priority for the task force.

Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, aliens convicted of aggravated felonies are eligible for immediate deportation.

As a criminal alien already deported, Zamora was barred from re-entering the United States for 20 years. He may now face federal charges of criminal re-entry after deportation, which carries a possible 25 year prison sentence.

Zamora is currently in federal custody awaiting extradition to Georgia.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.